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SECOND WEEK CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1. The recently released book titled "Chronicles of Change Champions" is a compilation of initiatives taken under which scheme?

[A] Swachh Bharat Mission [B] Poshan Maa Abhiyan

[C] Beti Bachao Beti Padhao ☒ [D] Sugamya Bharat

✓ Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani released a book titled "Chronicles of Change Champions". It is a compilation of 25 innovative initiatives taken at the State and District levels under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

✓ The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. It is a tri-ministerial initiative of the Union ministries of Women & Child Development, Human Resource Development and Health & Family Welfare.

2. 'SCORES' is a mobile application of which regulatory body of India?

[A] Real Estate Regulatory Authority

[B] Reserve Bank of India

[C] Securities Exchange Board of India ☒

[D] National Housing Bank

✓ Markets regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently launched a mobile application for assisting investors to enter grievances in SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES) portal. The app has all the features of SCORES web portal for grievance redressal, which is already functioning.

✓ The app, 'SEBI SCORES', which is to be available on both iOS and Android platforms, will encourage investors to lodge their complaints on SCORES instead of sending physical letters.

3. TIME Magazine has named which Indian woman as the 'Woman of the year 1947' in its recent recreated list of world's 100 powerful women?

[A] Amrit Kaur ☒

[B] Sarojini Naidu

[C] Indira Gandhi

[D] Savitribhai Phule

✓ TIME magazine has recently released a list of world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century, in its new project. Freedom fighter Amrit Kaur has been named by the magazine as 'Woman of the Year' for 1947 and Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for 1976.

✓ Amrit Kaur became the first woman to join the Cabinet, when she served as Health Minister for 10 years. She founded the Indian Council for Child Welfare, strived for women's education, right to vote, divorce and against child marriage.

4. What is the interest rate on deposits as announced by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the current financial year (2019-20)?

[A] 8.9% [B] 8.65% [C] 8.5% ☒ [D] 8.2%

✓ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Thursday lowered the interest rate on deposits to 8.50% for the current financial year 2019-20.

✓ The interest rate, which is the lowest rate fixed in seven years, was reduced from the previous rate of 8.65% in 2018-19. The Central Board of Trustees, which is the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, fixes the interest rate.

5. Which airport of Maharashtra has been renamed as 'Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport'?

[A] Aurangabad Airport ☒ [B] Kolhapur Airport

[C] Pune International Airport [D] Akola Airport

✓ The state Government of Maharashtra has recently renamed the Aurangabad Airport of the state as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport.

✓ The airport has been renamed after Sambhaji, the son of the great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji. The airport is owned by the Airports Authority of India.

6. Which Indian institute has developed an AI-powered drone to counter unregulated unmanned drones?

[A] IISc

[B] CSIR

[C] IIT, Madras ☒

[D] DRDO Laboratory

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered drone to counter the unregulated unmanned drones, also called as "rogue drones". This system would assist the armed forces and security services in ensuring safety at critical locations.

- ✓ The newly developed drones can hack into the GPS system of the unregulated drones, thereby directing it to change its flight path or make it land safely.

7. Which is India's fifth largest private sector bank, that is under crisis?

- [A] IndusInd Bank [B] YES Bank ☒
[C] IDFC First Bank [D] Bandhan Bank

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently unveiled a draft scheme of revival YES Bank, which has been put under the control of RBI. RBI also announced that State Bank of India is to make investment in YES Bank and participate in the reconstruction scheme.
- ✓ The financial position of YES Bank saw a gradual decline as it could not raise the required capital. RBI has imposed moratorium on the Bank and has capped withdrawals at Rs 50,000 per account. The existing Board was superseded and former SBI CFO Prashant Kumar was appointed as administrator for YES Bank.

8. According to the recent estimates published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which economy is most affected by the coronavirus outbreak?

- [A] United States [B] Taiwan Province of China
[C] European Union ☒ [D] Japan

- ✓ As per the recent estimates published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the most affected economy due to the coronavirus outbreak is the European Union (\$15.6 billion) followed by the United States (\$5.8 billion) and Japan (\$5.2 billion).
- ✓ The trade impact of the outbreak for India is estimated to be about USD 348 million and it is among the top 15 economies most affected.

- ✓ It also revealed that the manufacturing-slowdown in China due to the outbreak is disrupting world trade and could cause a \$50 billion USD decrease in global exports.

9. Daren Tang of Singapore has been nominated as the new Director General of which global organisation?

- [A] World Intellectual Property Organization ☒
[B] World Customs Organisation
[C] International Labour Organisation
[D] World Health Organisation

- ✓ The Coordination Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has recently nominated Daren Tang from Singapore for the post of Director General. The WIPO General Assembly will confirm the Coordination Committee's nomination.
- ✓ Tang is currently serving as the Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. The current Director General Francis Gurry's term ends this Sept.

10. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of India after Sudhir Bhargava?

- [A] Bimal Jalan [B] Bimal Julka ☒
[C] Kasturi Rangan [D] Gopala Swami

- ✓ Information Commissioner Bimal Julka has been recently appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Bimal Julka as the CIC at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The previous Chief Sudhir Bhargava retired on Jan.11 and since then the Chief Information Commission was functioning without head.
- ✓ It also has strength of six information commissioners against the sanctioned 11 personnel.

1. 'Chapchar Kut' is a popular festival of which Indian State / UT?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Assam

[C] Mizoram ☒

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ 'Chapchar Kut' is a popular and the biggest festival celebrated across the state of Mizoram. It is celebrated to welcome the spring season.
- ✓ The festival is celebrated by all the people of the state with many cultural events associated with it. People participate in dance and musical events including the traditional bamboo dance – Cheraw.

2. As per the recent study by the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), the 'Endophytic Actinobacteria' could reduce chemical inputs in which plant?

[A] Sugar cane

[B] Tea ☒

[C] Cotton

[D] Coffee

- ✓ Researchers at Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) Guwahati have found that the endophytic Actinobacteria have antifungal growth-promoting activities. They have also discovered that application of endophytic Actinobacteria could reduce chemical inputs in Tea plantation crop.
- ✓ IASST is an autonomous institute under Department of Science and Technology. This discovery would help decrease the pesticide content and increase our exports to many countries.

3. Bipasha Chakrabarti was recently appointed as the Communications Director of which technological company's Indian arm?

[A] Amazon

[B] Facebook ☒

[C] Google

[D] Microsoft

- ✓ Former Executive of CISCO, Bipasha Chakrabarti has been recently appointed as the new communications head of Facebook India.
- ✓ Under her new role as the Communications Director at Facebook India, Bipasha would lead the corporate communications and public relations in India. She will

handle the communications sector for both Facebook and Instagram in the country.

4. 'Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)' is associated with research in which field?

[A] Agriculture

[B] Genetics ☒

[C] Environment

[D] Energy

- ✓ A genetic research project named 'GenomeIndia: Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians' has been recently sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology to 20 institutions for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ Under the project, the 'Whole Genome Sequencing' which analyses 10,000 individuals representing the country's diverse population is to be carried out. The resultant information can enable future human genetics research and helps in developing precise diagnostics for major diseases.

5. In context of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the right of an organisation to receive foreign contributions, what does FCRA stand for?

[A] Foreign Currency (Regulation) Act

[B] Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act ☒

[C] Foreign Currency (Rights) Act

[D] Foreign Contribution (Rights) Act

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently ruled that an organisation supporting public causes by legitimate means of opposition like 'bandh' and 'hartal' cannot be deprived of its legitimate right of receiving foreign funds.
- ✓ But the organisations which are used for channelling the foreign funds by political parties shall come under the purview of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). The act was enacted in 2010 to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution.

6. Who is the Chairperson of the recently reconstituted National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)?

[A] Home Minister ☒

[B] Defence Minister

[C] Environment Minister

[D] Finance Minister

- ✓ The government has recently reconstituted the 'National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)' with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as its chairperson.
- ✓ NPDRR's vice-chairpersons include the minister of state in-charge of disaster management in the Home Ministry and the vice-chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar are some of its members.

7. Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a discussion on "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce", in association with which global organisation?

- [A] World Bank ☒ [B] UN Women
- [C] United Nations [D] ILO

- ✓ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development organised a discussion on "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce", in association with World Bank in New Delhi.
- ✓ Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the programme along with Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director India, World Bank.
- ✓ As a part of events to celebrate International Women's Day 2020, this programme is organised to honour the achievements of women in business, public, private and social organisations.

8. What is the theme of the campaign conducted by the Indian Railways to celebrate International Women's Day?

- [A] Travel safely [B] Each for Equal ☒
- [C] We are with you [D] He and She

- ✓ The Indian Railways is conducting a ten day long campaign from March 1 to 10 to celebrate the International Women's Day (March 8).

- ✓ The theme of the campaign is 'Each for Equal', representing the gender equality. The Indian Railways is also focussing on #SheInspiresUs, which highlights the inspiring stories of women achievers.

- ✓ Under this campaign, the steps taken to provide exclusive facilities to women passengers and to empower the women employees working in Indian Railways.

9. Which state / UT has recently launched a school health education plan called 'Student Health Card'?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒
- [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Rajasthan

- ✓ The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu recently launched the 'Student Health Card' in Jammu. This scheme is a part of the government's comprehensive school health education plan which ensures better healthcare for school children.

- ✓ Under this scheme, all government schools will maintain health records of enrolled students including immunisation record and developmental delays.

10. Agartala and Ghojadanga were recently designated as the authorised land immigration check posts. In which state, Ghojadanga is located?

- [A] Nagaland [B] West Bengal ☒
- [C] Assam [D] Meghalaya

- ✓ The capital of Tripura, Agartala and Ghojadanga of West Bengal, which are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border, have been recently designated by the government as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India, with valid travel documents.

- ✓ As per the recent Home Ministry notification, senior immigration officers have also been appointed for Agartala and Ghojadanga under the Bureau of Immigration. The designation is made under the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950.

1. Which state has recently launched a digital literacy programme titled 'I am also digital'?

[A] Odisha

[B] Kerala ☒

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Bihar

- ✓ The state of Kerala is set to launch a huge digital literacy campaign called 'I am also digital' which aims at making the benefits of the state reach the common citizens.
- ✓ This campaign is initiated by the Kerala Literacy Mission and the Kerala State IT Mission under the Department of Information Technology.
- ✓ The drive would be mainly launched as a people-participatory model to educate the society about digital technology. The project will be pilot-launched in Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation.

2. The renovated Animal Transport Memorial was recently inaugurated by the Indian Army in which city?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Mumbai

[C] Nagpur

[D] Bengaluru ☒

- ✓ The Director-General of Supply and Transport Corps of the Indian Army recently unveiled the renovated Animal Memorial at Bengaluru.
- ✓ The memorial indicates the contributions and service of mules and horses of the Indian Army, especially during the war in the Himalayas.
- ✓ This animal transport memorial has been extended by two walls, which highlight the role played by the animals in the Indian Army. It was also announced that 26 September each year has been nominated as the Animal Transport (AT) Remembrance Day.

3. The book titled 'Adventures of a Daredevil Democrat', which was recently published, narrates the story of which Former Chief Minister?

[A] Selvi J Jayalalitha

[B] M Karunanidhi

[C] Biju Patnaik ☒

[D] C. Achutha Menon

- ✓ A first of its kind comic book on the life and works of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik was recently released by the present Chief Minister and the former's son Naveen Patnaik.

- ✓ Senior political leaders of many parties attended the book release event. The state is celebrating the former Chief Minister's 104th birth anniversary. The Odisha state celebrates his birthday 5 March as the Panchayat Raj Divas.

4. Who is the chairperson of the high-level panel recently set up to prepare an investigation manual for Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)?

[A] N K Singh

[B] U K Sinha

[C] Injeti Srinivas ☒

[D] Tapan Ray

- ✓ The government has recently constituted a 12-membered high-level panel recently set up to prepare an investigation manual for Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

- ✓ As per the recent order issued by the corporate affairs ministry, Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas would chair the panel. The committee will devise a comprehensive manual for performing effective investigations and probes against white-collar crimes.

5. Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawanna Kanth and Mohana Singh Jitarwal, who recently received the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' award, are associated with which profession?

[A] Sportspersons

[B] Fighter Pilots ☒

[C] Army Officers

[D] Naval Captains

- ✓ On the occasion of International Women's day, President Ram Nath Kovind recently presented the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' to IAF's first women fighter pilots, Mohana Jitarwal, Avani Chaturvedi and Bhawanna Kanth, among the 15 total wardees.

- ✓ After the Government of India decided to open fighter stream in the Air force for women on an experimental basis, these three young women were inducted into the IAF's fighter squadron. They were also the first to be

inducted into the squadron and conduct a solo flight in MIG-21 in the year 2018.

6. Which city was the venue of 'Conference on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs', organised by the MSME Ministry?

[A] Cochin

[B] Chennai

[C] Hyderabad

[D] New Delhi ☒

✓ The three-day conference called 'Conference on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs' has been organised by the Union Ministry of MSME in collaboration with various industry bodies like FICCI-flo, CII and India SME Forum, in New Delhi.

✓ Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the conference and a panel discussion on 'Creating a conducive business Eco System for Empowering Women Entrepreneurs'. It was participated by more than 300 women entrepreneurs from all parts of the country.

7. Women Scientist Scheme C (KIRAN IPR) and Vigyan Jyoti are the schemes of which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Women and Child Development

[B] Ministry of Science and Technology ☒

[C] Ministry of Human Resource Development

[D] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

✓ Union Minister for Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan launched a new Helpline no 011-26565285, which aims at assisting women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists to get their queries answered related to schemes of Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

✓ Women Scientist Scheme C (KIRAN IPR) and the newly launched Vigyan Jyoti scheme are the schemes of Ministry of Science and Technology.

✓ Under the Vigyan Jyoti scheme, selected women are assisted to attend science camps at IITs, NITs, and other leading institutions.

8. Hans Raj Bhardwaj, who passed away recently, was a former union Minister of which portfolio?

[A] Defence

[B] Law and Justice ☒

[C] Finance

[D] External Affairs

✓ Hans Raj Bhardwaj who was an Indian Politician belonging to Indian National Congress, recently passed away. He was the Union minister for Law and justice for five years the minister of state for nine years.

✓ Hans Raj Bhardwaj introduced the concept of rural courts (Gram Nyayalayas) in India. He had also served as the Governor of Karnataka and Kerala.

9. Who is the first Indian cricketer to play in 150 Ranji Trophy matches?

[A] Dinesh Karthik

[B] Parthiv Patel

[C] Wassim Jaffer ☒

[D] Irfan Pathan

✓ Wassim Jaffer, former India Opener is the first Indian cricketer to play in 150 Ranji Trophy matches. He is also the highest run-scorer in the history of Ranji Trophy.

✓ Jaffer was in news recently, as he has announced his retirement from all forms of the game. He has totally scored 19,410 runs with an average of 50.67. In his first-class cricket career, Jaffer scored 57 centuries and 91 half-centuries with his highest score of 314.

10. Which Indian sportsperson was named the 'Changemaker of the year' at the Business Line Changemaker Awards?

[A] P V Sindhu

[B] Mary Kom

[C] Dutee Chand ☒

[D] Hima Dhas

✓ During the Business Line Changemaker Awards 2020 at New Delhi, Indian athlete Dutee Chand was awarded Changemaker of the year jointly with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) for bringing extensive change in society. Dutee Chand is India's fastest female sprinter with the national record of 11.22 seconds in 100m dash. At present, she is training to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

1. "Cova Punjab" mobile app launched by the Punjab government is aimed to spread awareness on which disease?

[A] Foot and Mouth Disease

[B] Corona virus ☒

[C] Swine Flu

[D] Malaria

✓ The Punjab state government recently launched a mobile application called "Cova Punjab" to spread awareness about the precautions to be taken against coronavirus.

✓ The application has been developed by the Department of Government Reforms and Public Grievances in association with the Health and Family Welfare Department. The mobile application has options to check for symptoms provided by the government.

✓ The application also suggests the nearest hospital and will spread awareness by sharing travel and preventive care advisories

2. Lt Gen KJS Dhillon has been recently appointed as the Director General of which organisation?

[A] Intelligence Bureau

[B] Defence Intelligence Agency ☒

[C] Central Bureau of Investigation

[D] Research and Analysis Wing

✓ Lt.Gen KJS Dhillon has been appointed as the Director General of the tri-services organisation Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) and Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Intelligence) under the Chief of Defence Staff.

✓ He was a former 15th Corps Commander and with his recent appointment, he will replace Lt.Gen AS Bedi. The new role as DG, DIA will require handling the intelligence inputs from all the three services along with various other agencies.

3. 'Shaadi Bhagya Scheme', which was making news recently, was a scheme of which state?

[A] Bihar

[B] Odisha

[C] Karnataka ☒

[D] Maharashtra

✓ The state government in Karnataka recently stopped the Shaadi Bhagya Scheme that was launched by the previous government in the state in 2013.

✓ Under the scheme, a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 was given to Muslim brides for marriage expenses when they submit their Aadhar and BPL cards. The previous coalition government had allocated Rs.60 crore budget for the scheme.

4. Which country recently joined as the 16th member in the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project of the Ministry of External Affairs of India?

[A] Senegal

[B] The Gambia ☒

[C] Ghana

[D] Zambia

✓ Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIS) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gambia for the participation of the country in the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project of the Union External Ministry of India.

✓ The Gambia is the 16th country to participate in the e-Network Project thus far. TCIL is the implementing agency for the e-VBAB Network Project, which aims to provide tele-medicine and tele-education services to African nations.

5. The tombs of Taramati and Premamati are located in which Indian State / UT?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Telangana ☒

[D] Maharashtra

✓ The Qutb Shahi Tombs were in news recently, as the United States Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster announced the completion of a US-funded restoration project of the tombs of Taramati and Premamati within the Qutb Shahi Tombs complex.

✓ They are 17th century tombs located in Telangana's capital city of Hyderabad. In Feb.2019, the Ambassador had partnered with Aga Khan Foundation and

announced a \$103,000 grant through the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

- ✓ In 2014, the tombs received a similar grant for mapping and documenting the place's structures.

6. What is the theme of International Women's Day, 2020?

[A] Think equal, build smart, innovate for change

[B] I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights ☒

[C] Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives

[D] Role of Women in addressing climate change

- ✓ International Women's Day is observed annually across the world on March 8.
- ✓ This year (2020), the theme of the Women's day is 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'. The theme is on the lines with UN Women's new multi-generational campaign, 'Generation Equality'.
- ✓ It marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The campaign theme of the day is 'Each for Equal'.

7. Ankita Raina is associated with which sports?

[A] Badminton

[B] Tennis ☒

[C] Squash

[D] Table-Tennis

- ✓ Ankita Raina, was seen in news as she delivered an outstanding game in the ongoing Federation Cup Tennis tournament, which led India to progress to the World play-offs. In the ongoing Federation Cup Tennis, India registered three consecutive wins in a row, after their first loss to China. Sania Mirza represented India in the doubles.

8. Who is the only Indian player to feature in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament?

[A] Harmanpreet Kaur

[B] Shafali Verma

[C] Poonam Yadav ☒

[D] Smriti Mandana

- ✓ As per the recent announcement of the International Cricket Council, Indian bowler Poonam Yadav is the only Indian player to feature in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup team of the tournament.
- ✓ Poonam Yadav secured ten wickets in the tournament, including four wickets in the opening match of the tournament against the host Australia.
- ✓ Another Indian player Shafali Verma has been selected as the 12th member of the team. She scored 163 runs in the tournament and reached the top spot in ICC T20 rankings.

9. Which state is to set up an exclusive department for Self Help Group called "Mission Shakti"?

[A] West Bengal

[B] Kerala

[C] Odisha ☒

[D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik recently announced that Odisha will be the first state to have an exclusive department for Self Help Group called "Mission Shakti".
- ✓ In addition to this exclusive department, the state government has also introduced an independent Nutrition Budget focusing on the nutritional enhancement of all mothers and children of the state, recently.

10. 'NIGHA', a mobile application to curb election malpractices, is an initiative of which Indian state?

[A] Punjab

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Gujarat

[D] Andhra Pradesh ☒

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh government has recently launched a mobile application which aims at curbing the malpractices occurring during the election. Through the application, any person can file complaints about the corruption or malpractices during the campaign in the upcoming civil polls. With the photos, audio or video files sent by the people, suitable actions will be taken by the government.

1. Which Indian public sector bank waived the minimum balance requirement for all savings bank (SB) accounts?

- [A] Punjab National Bank [B] State Bank of India ☒
[C] Canara Bank [D] Union Bank of India

- ✓ The Largest lender of India, State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced that the penalty charges for non-maintenance of average monthly balance (AMB) for all its savings bank accounts are to be waived.
- ✓ At present, the customers shall have to maintain average monthly balance of ₹3000, ₹2000 and ₹1000 in metro, semi urban and rural areas respectively.
- ✓ The Bank levies a penalty of ₹5 to ₹15 plus taxes when average monthly balance is not maintained. Now the penalty has been waived for all its 44.51 Crore savings bank account holders. The bank also lowered interest rate on all SB accounts to 3%.

2. World Economic Forum (WEF) released its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders. How many Indians are included in the list?

- [A] 2 [B] 5 ☒ [C] 10 [D] 14

- ✓ World Economic Forum (WEF) released its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders. As per the report, these young global leaders from 52 countries under the age of forty are working in their respective fields to change the world and are called 'change-makers'.
- ✓ Five Indians are named in the coveted list including Byju Classes' founder Byju Raveendran, Zomato's co-founder Gaurav Gupta, Tara Singh Vachani (CEO of Antara Senior Living), Vinati Mutreja (Managing Director and CEO, Vinati Organics Limited), and Swapan Mehra (CEO, IORA Ecological Solutions).

3. According to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which country is the largest exporter of arms during the past five years?

- [A] United States ☒ [B] Russia
[C] France [D] China

- ✓ According to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the largest exporter of arms during the past five years (2015 – 2019) was the United States, whose exports grew by 23% and share in global arms exports grew to 36%.

- ✓ Half of US arms exports are reported to have gone to the Middle East. It is followed by Russia, France, Germany and China in the next places.

- ✓ Arms transfers from Russia, decreased by 18%, largely due to a drop in sales to India. From 2015 to 2019, international arms exports grew by 5.5% from the previous 5 years.

4. Which global organisation has launched the, "COVID Action Platform" to convene the business community to support for COVID-19?

- [A] World Bank
[B] World Economic Forum ☒
[C] International Monetary Fund
[D] United Nations

- ✓ The World Economic Forum recently launched a new platform with the support of the World Health Organisation to convene the global business community for a collective support for the COVID-19 outbreak.

- ✓ The newly formed platform is called, "COVID Action Platform" and is open to all businesses and industry groups and other stakeholders including the governments around the globe.

- ✓ This first of its kind platform will integrate the efforts of all the entities in tackling the outbreak together.

5. S.S.Deswal has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of which Indian para-military force?

- [A] Central Reserve Police Force
[B] Central Industrial Security Force
[C] National Security Guard
[D] Border Security Force ☒

- ✓ The incumbent Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police S S Deswal has been given the additional charge of the DG Border Security Force (BSF).

- ✓ This appointment has been approved after the DG BSF Vivek Johri was posted to his parent cadre Madhya Pradesh. He is set to hold the additional charge till the appointment and joining of the successor or until further order, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs notification.

6. Which is the venue of the main national event for the sixth International Day of Yoga, 2020?

- [A] Ranchi [B] Leh ☒
[C] New Delhi [D] Guwahati

- ✓ The main national event for the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2020 will be held on June 21 at Leh in Ladakh. This national event is expected to be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ This is the first time the event is taking place in such a high altitude location like Leh. Last year, the Yoga Day event was organised in Ranchi, Jharkhand and the Prime Minister participated in the programme.
- ✓ The first International Day of Yoga was observed all over the world on June 21, 2015.

7. The Parliament of which country passed a bill to allow the President to contest in Presidential elections after 2024?

- [A] United States [B] United Kingdom
[C] Russia ☒ [D] China

- ✓ The Federation Council, the Upper House of the Russian parliament approved the presidential bill on amending the national Constitution, after the Lower house passed it.
- ✓ The bill changes the powers of the parliament and allows President Vladimir Putin to run for the presidency again in 2024, which may extend his rule to two more terms.

- ✓ The bill will be considered after two-thirds of the regional parliaments back it and after the all-Russia vote. The bill also seeks to give additional powers to the President to fire judges in the country's higher courts and to reject laws passed by Parliament.

8. Which Indian cueist was the runner-up of the National 6-Red Snooker Championship, at which Pankaj Advani won his 34th national title?

- [A] Ishpreet Singh ☒ [B] Aditya Mehta
[C] Yasin Merchant [D] Lucky Vatnani

- ✓ Veteran Indian cueist Pankaj Advani clinched the National 6-Red Snooker Championship with a 7-3 win over Ishpreet Singh. It is the 34th national title overall for Advani.
- ✓ The National 6-Red Snooker Championship was held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In the summit clash, Pankaj trailed 1-3 in the beginning but defeated the young cueist Ishpreet Singh of Maharashtra to claim his 34th title.

9. World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. Which disease was previously declared as pandemic by WHO?

- [A] H1N1 influenza ☒ [B] HIV
[C] Swine Flu [D] Spanish Flu

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 as a pandemic. The last time the WHO declared a pandemic was for the H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009.
- ✓ Pandemic is the term when epidemics are growing in multiple countries and continents at the same time, whereas an endemic describes the outbreak that has grown out of control yet is limited to just one country or location.

10. World Bank signed an \$80 million loan agreement with which Indian state to increase agricultural productivity in its Gram Panchayats?

- [A] Karnataka [B] Odisha
[C] Himachal Pradesh ☒ [D] Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Government of India, state government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank recently signed an \$80 million loan agreement to improve water management practices and increase agricultural productivity in certain Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh.

 - ✓ 'The Integrated project for source sustainability and climate resilient rain-fed Agriculture' project in Himachal Pradesh will be implemented in 428 Gram Panchayats, which is expected to benefit over 4 lakh smallholder farmers.
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